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Guide to Box 14

COUNTRY: Brazil

SUBJECT: Health and Sanitation Data - Belém

PLACE ACQUIRED: 25X1A

DATE ACQUIRED:

DATE OF INFO: 25X1X6

SOURCE:

JUN 14 1954

Pages: 2

1. Belém is located on the coast of Brazil, and is accessible to ocean travel. It is connected with the US, Europe, and other parts of Brazil by air, but it has no rail transportation. In 1950 the population was about 300 thousand.
2. Major causes of disease are TB, gastro-intestinal disorders, bronchial pneumonia, heart diseases, and cancer. Endemic diseases are TB, all forms of dysentery, malaria, leprosy, and measles / sic /.
3. There is an inadequate public water supply which is supplemented by various wells and springs. The public system is a state-owned "settling" reservoir which is chlorinated and filtered. A laboratory test on the sanitary condition is performed daily.
4. The Health Department does exercise control over food, but its standards are very poor. Cow's milk is distributed in large containers or uncleaned bottles. Only 10 percent of the dairy cattle is tuberculin tested. Since no official agency has control over the sanitary condition of the milk, everyone boils his own milk.
5. Only 30 percent of the population is served by an operating sanitary sewage system. Septic tanks is the most common method used for disposal of human excreta. The river is the ultimate repository for sewage. Human excreta is not used for fertilizing land. Although there is a drainage system adequate to carry surface runoff, there are storm sewers and open ditches, and there are places near the city where surface water collects and stands after a heavy rain. There is daily garbage collection which is burned. All refuse, including dead animals, is collected and burned. Human dead are buried. There is organized control over mosquitoes with DDT.
6. There are five hospitals in Belém with 1200 hospital beds, of which 700 are charity beds. All hospital services are available, and common drugs can be easily obtained.

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7. Local health and welfare administration are confined to Maternity, Infant Care, and Child Health. This work is performed by the Brazilian Legion (Maternal and Infant Care). Communicable diseases are not reported. All children are immunized against smallpox and some children get DTP and typhoid inoculations. Smallpox and typhoid inoculations are also available to the general public.
 8. Although general health and sanitation conditions are fair, special precautions regarding boiled milk and fresh vegetables should be taken to insure good health. Eating and drinking in public places is not recommended. The chief hazard affecting infants and children is intestinal parasites.
 9. Although primary education is compulsory, both primary and high school facilities are inadequate. English is taught in all high schools. There are no universities in Bahia, the nearest being in Rio de Janeiro, and São Paulo where there are medical and engineering colleges.

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Health & Sanitation
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Area

Brazil, Belém

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